

Claims

1. Method for controlling a network element in a communication network, whereby

- 5 - a network element makes available a plurality of behavior rules
 and
 - the network element autonomously/independently selects a behavior rule according to the operating conditions and forwards data packets in accordance with this behavior rule.

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2. Method according to Claim 1,
characterized in that
the operating conditions are given by any combination of line interruption, node failure, network loading, connection
15 establishment, network reconfiguration.

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3. Method according to one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that
a behavior rule contains the selection of one of a plurality of
20 paths.

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4. Method according to one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that
the behavior rules are formed in a control entity (NCS).

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5. Method according to one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that
the behavior rules are formed in a control entity (NCS) individually assigned to a network element.

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6. Method according to one of Claims 1 to 4,
characterized in that
the behavior rules can be delivered to the network element by way of network management from a control entity (NCS) superordinate to a
35 plurality of network elements.

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7. Method according to one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that

the behavior rules are created automatically.

8. Method for coupling a plurality of network elements,
in particular according to one of the preceding claims, whereby
5 two control entities (NCS) are coupled with one another by means of
a protocol by way of which they exchange information for the
harmonization of behavior rules.

9. Method according to one of the preceding claims,
10 characterized in that
it is used in a packet-oriented and connectionless communication
network.